Vivian's Village

Cahokia Heights, Illinois
A Supportive Housing Institute Success Story



In the summer of 2025, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF) Healthcare started a new chapter with the opening of Vivian's Village in Cahokia Heights. Named after Vivian Cash, a longtime local volunteer and housing advocate, the new development marks the foundation's first affordable housing property with onsite supportive services that help the residents manage their health and daily living. This milestone would not have been possible had the healthcare provider not participated in the Illinois Supportive Housing Institute (the Institute) two years earlier.

Offered jointly by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the Institute is an annual capacity-building program that provided SIHF with the tools, knowledge, and partnerships that enabled the foundation to expand on its prior experience creating affordable housing in Central and Southwestern Illinois, where the foundation provides medical services to over 1,100 patients each day. Though housing development may seem like an unconventional pursuit for a healthcare provider, SIHF had long recognized that affordable, high-quality housing leads to improved community health outcomes. And as a result, the foundation began developing housing in underserved areas to foster healthier communities and reduce barriers to accessing both housing and medical services. The vision for Vivian's Village that SIHF crafted at the Institute represented an elevation of the foundation's goal.

"SIHF is always looking for ways to be innovative and provide care for the communities and residents we serve, and permanent supportive housing was a way for us to continue to serve our communities and residents," said the foundation's Senior Director of Economic Development Philip Lasseigne.



Through hands-on workshops and individualized technical assistance, SIHF staff were able to shape their vision, learn about specialized financing programs, and channel their expertise at offering medical care in clinical settings into serving clients in a residential setting. The Institute further supported Vivian's Village's inception by providing SIHF with pre-development financing to help fund the development's initial costs. And by the end of the Institute, the foundation's staff had completed a successful proposal for Vivian's Village that earned just under $5 million in funding through IHDA's Permanent Supportive Housing Program, which awards federal and state funding to developments that seek to fulfill the statewide need for supportive housing.

Today, the completed Vivian's Village features 16 one-bedroom apartments that will soon be fully occupied. SIHF Healthcare offers access to its medical services through an online service which allows Vivian's Village residents to connect with medical professionals within the foundation's system digitally. Residents also have access to the foundation's full suite of services, from behavioral outpatient services and substance abuse outpatient programs to physical therapy and chronic pain treatment.

Other onsite supportive services at Vivian's Village are designed to remove barriers that often prevent community members from having access to medical and personal care. For example, an onsite community health worker helps connect residents with transportation to attend their appointments and refers residents to other local organizations that can assist with obtaining food and SNAP benefits, job opportunities, or other daily living needs. Such services, Lasseigne said, forge a stronger link between housing and health in the greater Cahokia Heights community.

The second phase of Vivian's Village is currently under construction. Upon completion, Vivian's Village II will offer affordable housing for families and give residents access to the supportive services at the first Vivian's Village. By broadening the community's access to such services, the foundation hopes to bring more connectivity and vitality to Cahokia Heights – and create the community cohesion promoted during the Supportive Housing Institute.

"The Supportive Housing Institute is just making sure that individuals, developers, and providers understand the resources and services out there

where they can continue to provide residents with the dignity and stability that comes with housing and healthcare services," Lasseigne said. "That's what's really important, and that's what the Institute provides."

Ready to make a difference in your community? The 2027 Supportive Housing Institute is now accepting applications from service providers, developers, and property managers across Illinois. To learn more or submit your application, visit ***insights.csh.org/il-institute-interest****.*